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Nation

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NEMASKA, MISTISSINI, OUJE-BOUGOUMOU, WASWANIPI, WHAPMAGOOSTUI

The Senator strikes back

by Will Nicholls

After slamming Patrick Brazeau many times in the past I have to say that, for once at least, the embattled Senator has finally impressed me. In an essay titled *Time To Throw Harper Under The Bus* and published August 25 on the Loonie Politics website he hit the nail on the head. Brazeau starts off with "Stick to the lines, repeat the message, don't expose any weaknesses with the hope of believing that anything Canadians don't know won't hurt them. That's been Harper's strategy in the first three weeks of this election campaign."

It's a harsh analysis from someone who was seen as being in Harper's back pocket until the scandal over Senate expenses erupted two years. Then Harper threw Brazeau out of the Conservative caucus. Brazeau quotes former Senator Hugh Segal who said, "Some folks think the best way to deal with these problems is to throw everybody under the bus… well guess what you're going to run out of buses and you're going to run out of people."

And yes, Brazeau was tossed under the bus and even though he denies having a personal agenda we can all understand if he has an axe to grind. He acknowledges that Canadians don't have much sympathy for him and the rest of the Senate given the rash of scandals in the past few years. However, Brazeau states that Harper has ignored the rule of law and has acted "like a judge, jury and executioner," adding, "I trust Canadians have strong views on principles of natural justice, the presumption of innocence and democracy – three concepts Harper ignores."

Given Harper's heavy handedness with legislation affecting Aboriginal peoples without consulting us, we can see how Brazeau arrives at this conclusion.

Another telling dig at Harper is the fact that over 40 Conservative MPs are not seeking re-election. It may be as Brazeau claims: "One thing is certain; from what I know, Harper is a control freak. When I was in caucus, very few challenged him. Those who did were shut down, those who had differing opinions were silenced."

Brazeau even goes further, stating, "When you contradict, shame or make the PM look bad regardless of its significance, watch out because some of his soldiers are coming after you. Is that "PROVEN LEADERSHIP?" No, it's "PROVEN DICTATORSHIP" and it scares me and it should scare you. I'm afraid of what Harper and his entourage will do to achieve their ends because I have lived it…"

The question we have to ask ourselves is simple. Is this a glimpse into the inner workings of the administration under Prime Minister Stephen Harper or just the chaotic ramblings of a disgruntled and turfed former Conservative? For a change I would give back some of the credibility that Brazeau lost in the past because whatever motivations he does make a case and he has nothing to lose. But you should judge for yourself. The essay in its entirety can be found at: http://looniepolitics.com/time-throw-harper-bus/. It's worth a read and may help you to decide where to cast your ballot. Knowledge is power.

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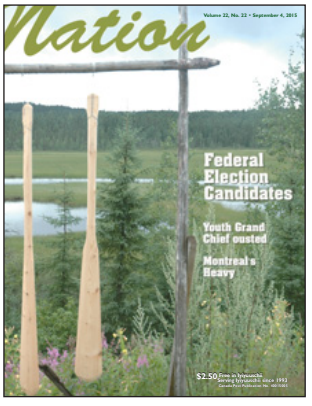

photo by Will Nicholls

The sizzle of my poor man

by Sonny Orr

The sizzle of my poor man's steak – the pork chop – produced a satisfying smoke that tasted real BBQ and felt comfortingly sooty. The main course – strips of sirloin pork doused in a generic sauce and hot buttered corn on the cob gently wrapped in foil – looked homely and bland, but when I cook, the care comes out in the flavours.

Yes, I am a BarBman, I BBQ the best I can, I can BBQ on the run. Today, I'm enjoying a barbie by the seashore. I closed the portable grill and slowly, my eyes close in the gritty heat. I'm startled awake by my better half as the smoke from my holy grill tells me that sauce is needed quickly. Yes, yes, yes…. more sauce… less smoke… sizzle sizzle sizzle… my eyes are shut….

Hordes of happy children splash in the river as their parents enjoy the day after work. It is truly summer again for the second day or so this year. We take advantage of each rising degree and celebrate on the river and bay beaches. You had a choice – fresh water at 12 degrees or salt water at 3 degrees – but it didn't really matter. Beach and sand was everywhere, with room for everyone.

Blasting from my portable speaker, my first song ends, and reminds me to check my cooking again. My BBQ rule: one song, one flip. The chops look succulent of course, and I flip them over, more sauce less smoke… sizzling on. The corn gets the flip too.

Several songs later, I heap on more pork as the first batch disappears quickly. I'm happy, they're happy, the beach goes on. The second and final round of cooking is another sign for us to speed our outdoor activities to higher levels of sand and water. The sounds of ATVs slowly passing by and into the distance of heat haze and the beach echoes more laughter and happy screams. The day and sun continue their brilliant act of defying autumn days and pending cooler weather. But don't think about that today.

My eyes close again. The heat is enjoyably durable, the body seems to take the high heat and low activity rate. I'm not much of a swimmer, but I stay in the shade avoiding deadly skin peelings.

With the BBQ safely cooled down to repack, back to town we head. I knew it was time to leave due to the increase of fly swatting and swearing and the pending bingo game made it obvious that the fine day was over. Too bad I'm not much of a drinker, I would have cooled down the natural way at the local watering hole and loitering like no tomorrow. But bingo rules the nights these days and home is where the cold shower is.

Back home, I cool down with a lot of H2O laced with Labrador tea leaves and sugar. There's 0% alcohol, but it's pretty damn cooling. Yes, summer has graced our lives today. For once, I'm happy with the heat as it got me to BBQ some chops at a swell beach! Life could be better, but heaven can wait.

My ATV reappears packed with friends of my teenaged daughter, apparently scouting for other parts of heaven on earth. I'm satisfied that my vehicle isn't stuck in the fine sands of the Great Whale River and my BBQ didn't embarrassingly flame out and that the kids are happy. Couldn't pray for anything better.

The night cools down enough to sleep off another great day on the 55th parallel. Maybe the gods of BBQdom will grant me another day out…

the Nation is published every two weeks
by Beesum Communications
This paper contains 70% recycled materials

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THANKS TO: Air Creebec

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:
$60 PLUS TAXES, US: $90, ABROAD: $110
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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642

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THE JAMES BAY CREE
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MAGAZINES CANADA
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Iserhoff out

Youth Grand Chief is removed in vote of non-confidence

by Jesse Staniforth

"Maybe I dreamed too big for them," said now former Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff. "I did what I could in three years, but I think we did an excellent job as youth leaders."

Iserhoff was commenting on his removal from his position in a vote of non-confidence August 16 at the annual general meeting of the Cree Nation Youth Council in Waswanipi. Delegates voted 27-15 to remove Iserhoff as Youth Grand Chief.

"I'm a happy-go-lucky guy and I thought everything was going quite well [at the AGA]," he said. "I had no suspicions, but you know how when something doesn't add up, you kind of feel it in your spirit? I felt that way throughout the whole assembly."

He is referring to a group led by now-Interim Youth Grand Chief Alex Moses, which raised complaints about Iserhoff's leadership and called for the vote of non-confidence.

Moses had difficulty explaining the move, saying that he was waiting until the CNYC prepared a press release. However, he confirmed that Iserhoff was deposed as Youth Grand Chief.

"The outcome was that there was a vote, as the constitution states," Moses said. "The only way to remove the Youth Grand Chief is through a youth assembly at the Annual General Assembly, which requires a two-thirds vote favoured by the delegates. That is what transpired."

Pressed for further details, he responded, "There were accusations that Josh abused his office. The comment I would make is that the youth wish to be represented, and represented well. There's a request for more activity, more projects – they want more action. That was heard loud and clear. The CYNC board members – youth chiefs, youth development coordinators who sit on the CYNC board – raised some things they felt were issues they had encountered working with Josh."

Former Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff

> **"Go ahead, do all the work you need to do. I'm not going to try to stop anyone from justifying their allegations – I know they're not true."**
>
> Former Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff

Iserhoff, however, said the accusations are weak. Principal among them is that funds were misspent. This, Iserhoff said, would be nearly impossible.

"The CNYC is under the CNG, so I had the Director of Culture, then the Director General, and then the Treasurer. It goes up through the whole line and of course it goes to management before any project is approved."

But he invited the scrutiny, and expects no proof of wrongdoing would turn up.

"Go ahead, do all the work you need to do," Iserhoff said. "I'm not going to try to stop anyone from justifying their allegations – I know they're not true. It's only going to make a bigger mess, and it's going to be costly if they have to pay out of the CNYC budget, which I worked hard for."

Iserhoff acknowledged that his leadership rocked the boat. He cites his push to move local youth coordinators, who he said were generally older and had been in their positions a long time, from the board to administrative positions.

"No administrator should be on the council, as they're all elected people," he said. "From the get-go they never liked that. Two years ago I presented a strategic plan and under that plan, a lot of changes were going to happen. It was a constant battle. I was supposed to travel to all the Cree communities to present it and ask if it was a good idea, but the board decided I wasn't going to do that. They did everything they could to keep me from achieving what I wanted to achieve as a grand chief."

Still, Iserhoff said he's proud of what he and the CYNC achieved under his tenure, particularly the N'we Jinan project and the Uranium Walk.

"This has been really hurtful. It's brought me to tears. But this is the life of a leader. You have to go through these ups and downs, but I don't wish for any of our youth to go through what I've gone through."

Cree fire investigators certified

by Evelyn Horsky

The first cohort of trained Cree fire investigators received their certifications at a ceremony in Montreal August 14. Presenting the certificates to the nine graduates was Michel Tarko, President of the Justice Institute of British Columbia, which designed and administered the training program.

The skills will further enhance capabilities in Cree fire departments. The first module of the preventive fire training in which all participants passed successfully is only the beginning of their comprehensive education in fire prevention.

The new fire inspectors include:

- Eliza Moses, Eastmain
- Tracy Iserhoff, Waswanipi
- Tyler Diamond, Waskaganash
- Benoit St. Pierre, Oujé-Bougoumou
- Donavan Lameboy, Chisasibi
- Murray Rupert, Chisasibi
- Derek Mark, Wemindji
- Michael Snowboy, Whapmagoostui
- Marcel Wapachee, Nemaska

The training also instructed the students in front-line leadership skills and how to educate young people about fire prevention. The program takes over a year to complete under the auspices of the Justice Institute of British Columbia, which is known internationally for its applied training environments.

Henry Mianscum, CNG Director of Capital Works and Services, Lee Roy Blacksmith, Fire Marshall, and George Cox, Regional Fire Prevention Officer, were also present at the ceremony.

Pilot project aims at promoting fire awareness among youths

by Akiva Levitas

As part of a campaign to increase public awareness on fire prevention and safety, the Cree Nation government has begun offering a Junior Fire Brigade program in three communities this summer. Children were able to sign up for the program at the local fire station in order to take part in the training program, which took place in June and July.

The program offers the youth a chance to learn about fire prevention and how to spot the dangers with example demonstrations. Being a part of the junior fire brigade, the students were given a walkthrough of the tools and gear used by the fire department, as well as getting to try on the gear and competing against the clock.

Although the program is new the initial feedback received by the fire prevention office has been positive and there is hope the program will expand further in the future.

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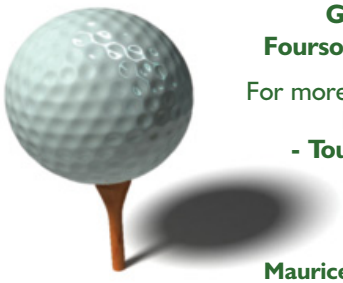

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Kathleen J. Wootton
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Oujé-Bougoumou election results

O-J's new chief is Curtis Bosum. The new Deputy Chief is Lance Cooper. Elected band councillors are Gaston Cooper, Harry Bosum, Janie Wapachee, Sam R. Bosum and Nancy C. Bosum.

Congratulations to everyone from *the Nation*.

AFN federal voting information

First Nation voters may face difficulties when voting in the upcoming federal election. The 2014 Fair Elections Act will make it harder for some First Nation citizens to prove their identity when trying to vote on Election Day – Monday, October 19, 2015.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is working with Elections Canada to remove some of these new barriers for First Nation voters by providing information and by developing tools to assist those who want to participate in the upcoming federal election.

The AFN has developed a number of materials to ensure First Nation voters have the information they need prior to this federal election. This includes a short online questionnaire meant to gather information on voting experiences – we encourage you to take a few minutes to fill it out at the AFN website.

There are also a number of documents available to be downloaded for your information, or for use in your community. All of this information is intended to be completely non-partisan and respects the right of each First Nation's citizen to decide whether they want to participate in this federal election and who they want to vote for.

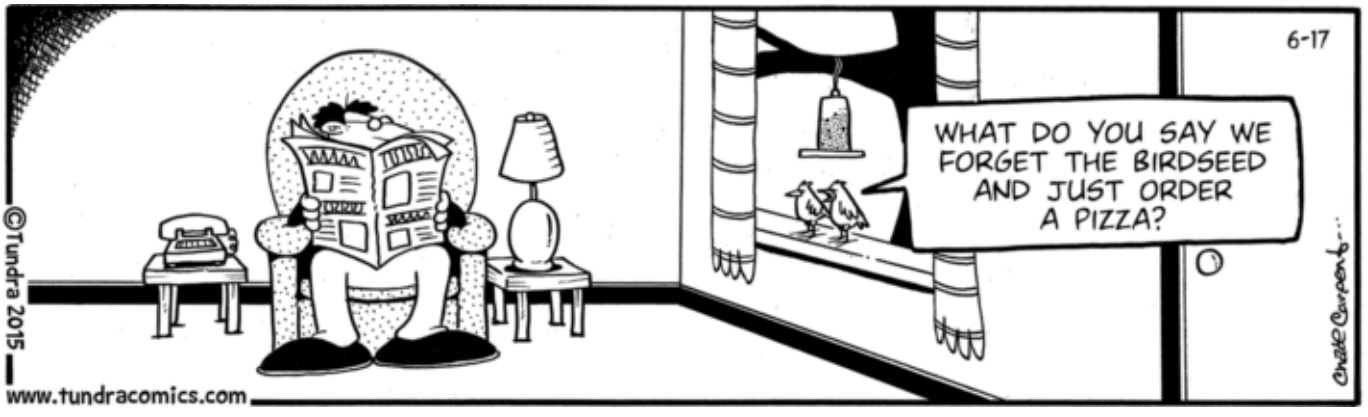
Coon-Come a film finalist

Cree filmmaker Allison Coon-Come is looking for public support in her bid to win $45,000 in the CBC Short Film Face Off. The winner of the competition, which begins September 12 and takes place in Halifax, will be decided by a panel of judges and an online vote open to all residents of Canada. Now 20 years old, Coon-Come started filmmaking as part of a Wapikoni Mobile workshop when she was only 14.

Coon-Come's piece "Eddie" is competing against eight other Canadian short films which will be broadcast September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 at 7 pm Eastern time.

The young director was selected by CBC, which asked her if she would permit her work to be entered into their annual contest and subsequently made it into the final round of competition.

Following the live presentations of each film, a panel of industry professionals will offer commentary and examine the technical and creative aspects of the work with the directors who produced it. For more on the CBC Short Film Face Off visit www.cbc.ca/shortfilmfaceoff. To see a selection of Coon Come's work check out www.wapikoni.ca/filmmakers/alison-cooncome.



Federal Election 2015

Time to meet your candidates, here they are:

by Amy German and Jeremy East

Why are you the most qualified person to represent this region?

I think that my track record for the region speaks for itself. I have worked hard to support the local economy: the forestry and mining industries, the Nunavik Tourism Association, and the Cree outfitters in Eeyou Istchee. It is important that citizens in this riding have access to sustainable employment.

I also believe that we need to do more for our communities. This is why I have worked hard to advocate for more support for our community organizations and was successful in getting more funding for La Piaule through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The Tasirvik Family House in Kuujjuarapik is a very important community project that I have supported, and I hope that it will be extended to include Whapmagoostui.

I also put in place the Comité des élus (municipal, provincial and federal levels) to enable elected representatives to work together for the well-being of citizens, regardless of political stripe. I also worked to reduce homelessness in Val-d'Or by supporting "Chez Willie" and made sure that the Canmet mining school remains here in the riding.

Another file that is close to my heart and that I have actively brought forth to the House of Commons is the crisis of the 1200 Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada. Finally, I have worked on more than 500 personal records of citizens on employment insurance, immigration, tax benefits, benefits for seniors and other constituents' needs. I will continue to work hard for the riding.

What could your party do for the region? And why is it the best choice?

After 10 years of Harper, people in this riding are ready for change; that is what I hear on the doorstep. The only party that can bring real change and get rid of Harper is the NDP. My leader has a strong record on a lot of the issues that resonate in this riding, like supporting the local economy while making sure that we do it in a sustainable way and that we protect the environment for generations to come.

The NDP has consistently fought for Indigenous rights and tabled legislation that is in line with traditional values of caring for the environment, the water, the animals, the trees. We have a concrete Sustainable North plan for the region that is based on our understanding that solutions need to come from the communities: they know best what they need.

For everyone, we will invest in families; invest in strong community infrastructure – creating good, skilled jobs opportunities here in our community and making sure that everybody can retire in dignity. We will repeal C-51 to protect constitutional rights; and we will undo the damage done to our environmental protection laws and research about Climate Change and protecting the North.

Romeo Saganash

New Democatic Party of Canada

Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

What specifically could you do for the Cree?

I have been a strong advocate for the Cree since I founded the Cree National Youth Council 30 years ago and served in many functions for the Cree – I believe that the NDP can continue this work at the federal level. My leader has clearly committed to a new Nation-to-Nation era with First Nations Inuit and Métis communities and I will ensure that we deliver on this commitment.

My colleagues know that this is an equal relationship of partners based on treaty mutual respect – we are done with 148 years of Liberal and Conservative patronizing, colonization and assimilation. I am committed to working to recreate our shared future.

We have already promised an inquiry into the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls within the first 100 days of forming government, and this is something that I want to personally see through.

I will also return to the House to re-table my bill that will ensure that the laws of Canada respect the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples entirely supported by my colleagues and leader in the NDP. I also plan to work towards seeing our languages recognized. I want to be able to stand up in the House again to speak my language with pride and I will see the funding and support for Indigenous languages reinstated and increased.

Is there anything else?

I would like to add that when I was at the UN and we were drafting the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it was very important to us that we included Article 5 which says that we have the right to participate fully in elections of the nation-state while still retaining our legal rights and status as Indigenous Peoples.

This is extremely important to keep in mind during this election: the AFN has identified 51 ridings, including Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou, where participation by Indigenous people will decide who is elected. The way I see it: our ancestors saw a partnership, they signed a treaty. It's our responsibility to honour them by making our treaty partners accountable and change the system.

Regional Radio Show on Housing

from the Capital Works and Services Department / Housing and ownership in the Cree Nation

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In the Rupert diversion bays, changes in fish communities are closely monitored by a field team whose work consists of describing the composition, abundance and biological characteristics of fish populations for the Crees.

To watch the new video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

Clifford Macleod, field worker

Diversion Bays

Georges Neeposh, tallyman, Trapline M25

Each month, a new video will be added to www.hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, September 16,
at 8:00 a.m.

Luc Ferland
Bloc Québécois
Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

Why you are the most qualified person to represent this region?

Luc Ferland, who represented the Parti Québécois in Quebec's National Assembly from 2007-2014, is a well-known figure throughout the region. After losing his provincial seat last year, Ferland is looking to represent the region once again, this time on a federal level under Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe.

Outside of the National Assembly, his accomplishments include stints as the Director General of the Conseil régional de développement de la Baie-James as well as Director General of the localité de Joutel. He also presided over the regional committee for des Jeux du Québec en Abitibi-Baie-James.

"I've been a public servant in the area for over 35 years," said Ferland. "I've also worked on many notable projects with the Cree communities."

Over the course of his career, Ferland helped to institute the Eeyou Eenou Police Force, and played a role in the creation of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, which gave the Cree expanded powers over lands and resources in their territory.

"That was something that really important to me, to be a part of developing a common vision that respected all cultures and traditions in the region," said Ferland. "I know the economic aspects of this riding and I understand the needs of the different populations that inhabit the riding. When it comes to the election campaign at hand, I am a first choice candidate."

What can the Bloc Québécois specifically do for the region?

Although the Bloc Québécois lost a great deal of its support to the NDP in the last federal election, Ferland is confident his party will have a strong showing in October.

"Support often changes in politics, and just as often changes back," said Ferland. "You only have to look to the '90s when the Conservatives went from a majority government to having only two seats in the house, and now they hold a majority again."

The Bloc have enjoyed a resurgence in support since the return of party leader Duceppe, but whether or not that will translate into new seats on election day remains to be seen. Ferland says he offers constituents real advocacy in the House of Commons.

"The current government hasn't made any real effort to improve the lives of the people I want to represent," he said. "It's a long campaign, and I'm confident that people will give us their support because we are the party that will do the most for them in Ottawa."

What can you do for the Cree specifically?

Ferland says one of the biggest issues on his agenda is housing improvements in Cree communities.

"There is a flagrant lack of housing, especially affordable housing, across the communities," said Ferland. "There are so many questions related to economic development in these communities, and the federal government has been completely absent."

Ferland says that federal support for industry in the North is seriously lacking, and that change needs to come.

"The federal government needs to help our enterprises, to better invest in infrastructure like roads, airports and rails so that economic opportunities can reach our Northern communities," said Ferland. "And of course, all development would happen under the agreement of Cree people and the other populations in the riding.

Anything else you would like to add?

"The issues at stake here are all extremely important – economic, social and cultural development. It takes someone in Ottawa who will defend the interests of the people they represent here in the North, notably the Cree people. As a representative I would be both present in Ottawa, and present in the territory."

Pierre Dufour
Liberal Party of Canada
Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

Why you are the most qualified person to represent this region?

Pierre Dufour first became involved in community development as Director General of Val-d'Or's mining tourism attraction, the Cité de l'Or. After opening it under Dufour's guidance in 1995, the attraction went on to win Quebec's Innovation in Tourism prize in 1996.

"We restored old buildings in the area that were in originally in operation as the old Lamaque mine from 1935 to 1985," said Dufour. "On a political side, I had to raise money to build the project, which cost over $3.6 million."

Dufour also served as the Director of Administration and Marketing for Les Foreurs de Val-d'Or, the city's Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team. He won the John Horman Trophy as best administrator in the league for the 2006-2007 season.

"Working with les Foreurs, I was given the chance to meet a lot of people and organize community events," said Dufour. "One example was a game that we held in Mistissini to celebrate the opening arena there. It was a game between les Foreurs and Chicoutimi. That gave me a chance to communicate with the people of Mistissini and see the accommodations and infrastructure there."

For the last seven years, Dufour has worked at the Centre local de développement de la Vallée-de-l'Or, where he served as Director General prior to this campaign.

"All of these experiences have given me the ability to be a great candidate for the region," said Dufour.

You have plenty of experience at the community level, but this is your first foray into politics on a larger scale. How do you feel about that?

"I feel like someone who is starting something new. People like Romeo Saganash have a lot of experience on the national level, but after four years of him representing this riding, we didn't see a lot of things happen," said Dufour. "I can make new progress for all the communities and bring in something new. I want to be a person who can change something."

What can the Liberal Party do specifically for the region?

Dufour said that one of the most important things the Liberal Party offers to Aboriginal communities in the riding is a promised $2.6 billion national increase in First Nations education spending over four years.

"We're talking about a better school situation, we're talking about infrastructure, we're talking about respect for the way the population lives," said Dufour. "It's important to see what the government wants to do with the population up North and recognize that this issue is a big part of the Liberal Party's campaign."

The Liberal plan, announced by party leader Justin Trudeau August 13, would include a $500 million investment in school infrastructure over three years.

What can you do for the Cree specifically?

For Dufour, one of the biggest issues affecting Crees is the current state of the James Bay road.

"Today if you try to travel on that road, you can see that nothing has been done since they built it," he said. "We need to restore this road to give the Chisasibi sector a chance to develop their new economic system."

Additionally, Dufour said he is eager to pursue new economic opportunities, including the possibility of Northern seaports. He believes that with climate change affecting ocean trade routes, seaports in northern Quebec could present considerable opportunity for future generations. Dufour also added part of his job would be making sure First Nations were part of any economic discussion.

"It's important to be there to foster agreements between the Cree and the non-Native population. And all these things must be done with respect for the life of the Cree Nation."

Is there anything else?

"I just want to say that there are a lot of specific things that need to be done in the North and that's what I'm going to be there to work on," said Dufour. "There is so much economic development in the North, and it's important that we be a part of it. When politicians talk with the central members of their party, they try to find some solution that is coming from Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto. The solutions have to come from the Nations living in the North. We have to listen to them and be sure that the things we do for the next generation are going to reflect what Northern people want in their communities."

Steven Hébert

Conservative Party of Canada

Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

Why you are the most qualified person to represent this region?

Born in Val-d'Or, 28-year-old Steven Hébert is the youngest candidate running in the Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou riding. A graduate of the University of Ottawa, he spent the last four years working in the Prime Minister's Office as a communications advisor. Prior to that he worked for Pierre Corbeil, who represented Abitibi-Est in Quebec's National Assembly.

"I have a very good understanding of the issues that affect this riding," said Hébert. "Even though I'm young, I have an education in political science and I've been working in politics for almost 10 years now, so I have the experience."

What can the Conservative Party specifically do for the region?

Hébert says that the focus of his party over the next four years would be economic development; a platform on which he says the Conservative government is strong.

"When it comes to the economy, the Conservative Party is the only party that has had great results when it comes to economic growth," says Hébert. "As the new MP I will make sure to create more economic growth in Quebec that Northerners can benefit from. In my view, we will improve the quality of life for Northerners, which is very important.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Harper, this government is making significant progress on Aboriginal and economic issues, which is important for our riding."

What can you do for the Cree specifically?

Hébert's plan for economic growth in the riding is something that he says would include the Cree.

"If there are new projects up north I will make sure that the Cree can benefit from these projects," said Hébert. "With economic growth we can improve the quality of life up north and I think this will be a very good thing for the Cree people."

Hébert told *the Nation* that this influx of economic opportunity would likely come in the resource sector, but said he could not give any sort of specifics without first consulting stakeholders. He did point out that Aboriginal communities would be consulted on any new projects in the region.

The Conservative government has drawn the ire of dozens of First Nations and women's advocacy groups in recent years for rejecting numerous calls for an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. But Hébert says his party is taking the best approach to tackle the issue.

"The Conservative party has a very tough-on-crime agenda," he said. "These crimes are unacceptable and need to be addressed. In my mind, we no longer need to discuss this issue. The only thing that needs to be done is help police bring these criminals to justice so that they can be held accountable for what they have done."

A Resource Mine

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Patrick Benoît
The Green Party of Canada
Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou

Why are you the most qualified person to represent this region?

Hailing from Val-d'Or, Patrick Benoît says that he has led a diverse life with a career history that covers health-care work as a paramedic to 10 years in the military dealing with everything from environmental disasters to combat zones. So when it comes to helping those in need, the 44-year-old is worldly, hard-working and experienced.

While this is his first foray into politics, Benoît said his inexperience could actually be an advantage because he is without the bad habits of seasoned politicians.

"I am honest, I am hard-working and I am really there to help the people," said Benoît.

"They come before me."

What could your party do for the region? And why is it the best choice?

"I would be very present as an MP, going into all of the communities to visit each Band Council Office to discuss what is important to them. I am the kind of person who likes being close to people and I want like to help," said Benoît.

Benoît said the Green Party is the only party that will ensure that there is a balance between the economy and the environment when it comes to northern development and this is important. He said he would do everything by the book to ensure that the rights of First Nations are recognized and that mining and other natural resource development does not destroy all of the land and that the land that does get developed is restored once the development is over.

"We want to make sure that First Nations are given their fair share of employment in those natural resource development industry jobs," said Benoît.

"Speaking of First Nations, we would also ensure that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is honoured and ensure that a full inquiry is launched regarding Canada's high rate of missing and murdered Indigenous women."

In terms of education, Benoît said the Greens would make sure that all of Canada's Indigenous people would have access to quality education that would be culturally appropriate.

What specifically could you do for the Cree?

"I acknowledge the vital importance of the mining industry. We support mining where it does no lasting harm to the environment and the ecosystems that living things rely on. Mining is necessary and mining can be destructive, but greener mining is possible.

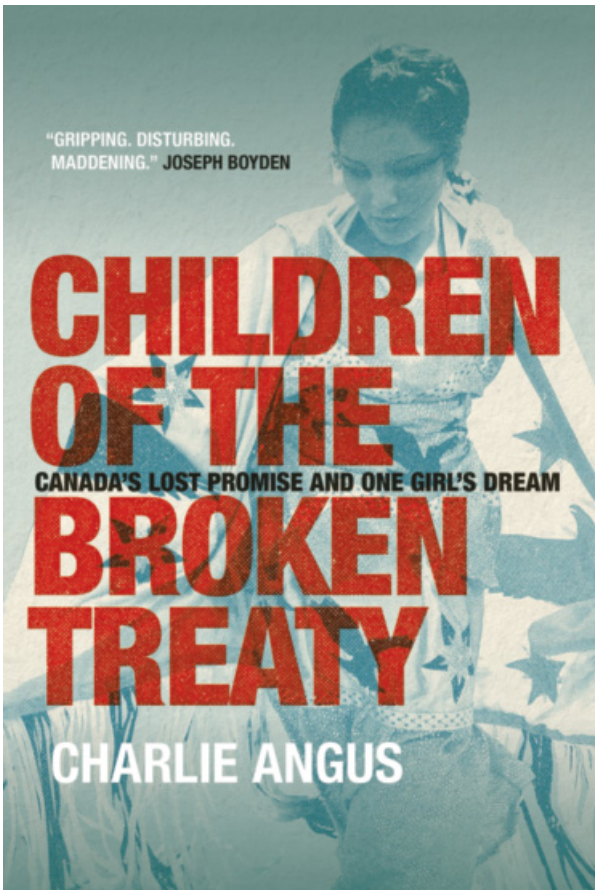
"The Green Party of Canada believes it is possible to extract minerals for human use with minimal harm to the environment and other species. But I will vigorously oppose the permitting of any new uranium mines and notify current uranium-permit holders of plans to phase out this industry in Canada, including exports," said Benoît.

Is there anything else?

"I will have to learn about the people in this region. Meet them and greet them.

There is a difference between knowing what to do and then actually taking the initiative to do what needs to be done. I want to be the one who will do what needs to be done to help them. Of course, I will need to know what has to be done first and while Canada has done a lot of research on this, I don't feel that it has really taken the necessary steps to do this or to help them.

"While we have spent a lot money and pay a lot of attention to what goes on in Africa and the Middle East, we have forgotten that in Canada's north there are people in need. So we need to place as much effort as possible on helping them. I don't think that it is normal to have people in the north who are in need," said Benoît.



A historic swindle

A new book by Charlie Angus chronicles Treaty 9 and the stolen wealth of northern Ontario

by Jesse Staniforth

New Democrat MP Charlie Angus' new book *Children of the Broken Treaty* is a history of Treaty 9, from its signing through the nightmare years of St. Anne's Residential School in Fort Albany, past the '60s Scoop, the crises in Attawapiskat and Kaschechewan, and the story of Attawapiskat student activist Shannen Koostachin. The book ends not long after Koostachin's tragic death in a car accident at age 15.

Angus seemed on the edge of tears speaking to *the Nation*. "When Shannon died," he said, "that day was just darkness. So many young people kill themselves. So many people give up hope. And here was the fire of hope, gone. People started calling me – national Aboriginal leaders, labour leaders, journalists, educators. They were crying. I saw how she'd touched so many people."

The school crisis in Attawapiskat that Koostachin fought to resolve led Angus to an Access to Information request, which the government honoured by dumping 1,200 pages of historical documents on him. None of these were the documents he requested, but he found them valuable nonetheless.

"They were historical documents," he said. "That's when I knew the book had to be written. These are the letters of the department about St. Anne's, and it goes back to the first documents from Duncan Campbell Scott's report in 1907."

Famed Canadian poet and former Indian Affairs Minister Campbell Scott negotiated Treaty 9 and was present at the signing. Scott, who believed oral traditions in Native culture were meaningless, made oral promises knowing full well he would never put them down on paper.

"He writes to the department after telling the Cree of Fort Albany and Moose Factory that he promised their children education if he signed the treaty," Angus reported. "Then he turns around and says the Cree don't need proper education, they just need rudimentary skills and hygiene. It's such a dismissive attitude, and right there, that's the breach of the treaty."

It was also the beginning of a long and truly ugly history, including the use of an electric chair at St. Anne's Residential School to torture children.

"What happened at St. Anne's was absolutely a crime against humanity," Angus stated. But in order to understand where it came from, he needed to understand the treaty first. Initially he had viewed it as a piece of ancient history, but former Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Stan Louttit insisted he learn more about it.

"Stan's grandfather signed the treaty! Theresa Spence's grandfather signed the treaty!" he recalled. "I'm thinking, okay – their grandfathers signed the treaty, while my grandfather came here as a Scottish immigrant to work the richest gold mine in the west-

ern world, which is right in the centre of Treaty 9."

Attawapiskat was such a fertile ground for exploration, Angus suggested, because it embodied everything that was tragic about the relationship between the Canadian state and Indigenous people – beginning with the Canadians swindling Indigenous nations out of land worth billions.

"I really thought this was important just to place it so people could understand: Treaty 9 transferred some of the richest mineral, hydro and timber wealth in the world," he said. "And the people who signed it are by and large living in some of the poorest, most underfunded communities in the country."

Angus takes readers carefully through the crises that followed – the repeated flooding in Kaschechewan, the diesel spill that contaminated Attawapiskat's J.R. Nakogee School and that community's subsequent housing crisis that catapulted Chief Theresa Spence to national attention.

"What I've tried to establish in the book is that the language about 'Ending the Indian Question' may have changed, and some of the tactics may have changed, but the fundamental principles are still very much in place," said Angus.

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A ARMS can you raise both?

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GENERAL EDUCATION
WHAPMAGOOSTUI
Johnny Abraham, Shannon George, Eddie Jr. Masty, **Absent**: David Jr. Kawapit

NORTHERN BUILDING MAINTENANCE
WHAPMAGOOSTUI
Charlie Dick, Derek Dick, Elijah George, Peter Kawapit, Brandon Mamianskum, Job Mamianskum, Melvin Natachequan, Shawn Masty

ACCOUNTING
NEMASKA
Sidney Georgekish, Gloria Tanoush, Barbara Trapper, Janet Moar, Gerti Jolly, Marie-Anne Blackned, Emma Coon Come

STARTING A BUSINESS
NEMASKA
Barbara Trapper, Sarah Cowboy, Emily Cowboy, David Gull, Raymond Jolly, Andrew Metarick

GENERAL EDUCATION
NEMASKA
Ethan Wapachee, Emily Cowboy, Gertie Jolly, Emma Coon Come

Stepping into a brighter future

Where to take your first step into vocational programming this fall

by Amy German

Meeting needs for education and career training, the Cree School Board is always hard at work to provide the best programs available to as many communities as possible.

If you want to train for a new career, brush up on your skill set or move up in the field you are already in, there are numerous programs being offered in most Cree communities.

Between now and February 2016, the following courses will be offered in various communities. Please inquire locally about when each program will begin as many of the start dates have yet to be announced. All of these courses could be subject to cancellation depending on the number of students who register in each.

Chisasibi: Home Care Assistance; Construction Business Management; Starting A Business: Accounting
Wemindji: Mining Mobile Mechanics; Semi Automatic Welding
Waskaganish: Accounting
Nemaska: Northern Building Maintenance; Home Care Assistance; Plastering
Matagami: Electricity
Mistissini: Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing
Oujé-Bougoumou: Carpentry; Trucking Class III
Waswanipi: Recreational Leadership; Hotel Reception; Trucking Class I
Washa Sibi (TBD-SRVTC): Secretarial Studies; Starting A Business

Home Care Assistance: This 975-hour program is ideal for those looking to help the sick and infirm within their own communities, this home care assistance program is about learning the proper training to provide basic care and services for those in need.

Construction Business Management: In this 450-hour entrepreneurial course students will learn how to manage a business that offers general services or specialized services in the construction sector. Students study how to estimate costs relative to the project, prepare proposals, negotiate contracts, plan outlines for work sites, carry out projects and manage the quality of the work. It also covers how to hire personnel, how to negotiate purchasing of materials and how to manage a company's accounts and finances.

Starting A Business: If you have ever dreamed of starting your own business, this course will offer you the basics on how to do your own books, manage staff and many of the other fundamentals involved. Covering the basics of how to make a business plan and how to manage projects, this 330-hour course is geared at getting you on the right track to realizing your entrepreneurial dreams.

Accounting: This 1350-hour program is ideal for those who want to acquire basic accounting skills, such

as calculation and preparation of bills, invoices, receipts, and payments for a business. The program also features instruction on how to manage petty cash, produce payrolls, price calculation, accounting tasks and fiscal year end activities, income tax form preparation and accounting systems.

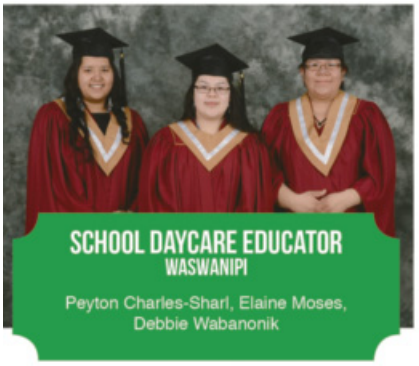
Northern Building Maintenance: Geared at handymen (and women), this 1320-hour course teaches students how to maintain buildings in northern communities. Taught in a classroom as well as using real-life situations, students will learn how to fix a wide variety of building-related problems, including basic plumbing and heating systems.

Plastering: This 810-hour program teaches industry-standard skills to those who want to become professional plasterers. Students learn how to use a trowel or a machine, do calcareous plasterwork on different surfaces, run metal moldings, pull joints on gypsum sheets, do stucco work, run plaster moldings, and how to apply pre-cast ornamental plasterwork.

Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing: For those interested in working with machinery related to mineral and metal processing, this 900-hour course can lead to a versatile career. It covers how to master and maintain equipment operation, interpret information relating to ore processing and methods, prepare control tests, use related computer software and safety regulations.

Electricity: Running at 1800 hours, this course will teach would-be electricians how to install, repair, modify and maintain circuits, electrical and electronic systems, and communication networks, how to interpret drawings, specifications, technical manuals and maintenance procedures, and how to verify the voltage, current and power of electrical circuits.

Carpentry: This course is key to stable employment in building housing, infrastructure improvements and the

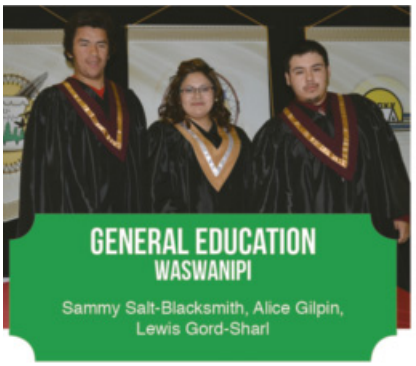


SCHOOL DAYCARE EDUCATOR
WASWANIPI
Peyton Charles-Sharl, Elaine Moses, Debbie Wabanonik

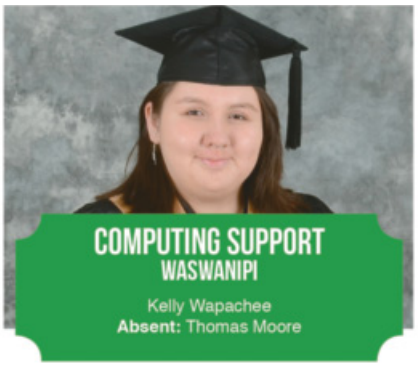
CARPENTRY
WASWANIPI
Kyle Mianscum, Stephane Trapper, Lyndon Hughboy

HOME CARE ASSISTANCE
WASWANIPI
Eleanor Stephen, Claudette Happyjack, Christina Pachano, Harriette Ottereyes, Whasdeskun Brien

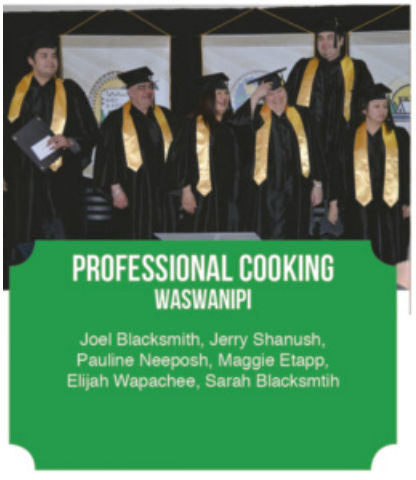
FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES
WASWANIPI
Bottom Row: Matthew Happyjack, Juanita Mianscum, John Saganash
Top Row: Alice Gilpin, Gladys Herodier, Georgina Hester, Amy Cowboy-Blacksmith



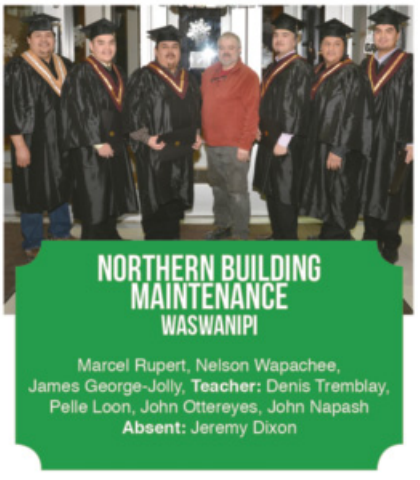
GENERAL EDUCATION
WASWANIPI
Sammy Salt-Blacksmith, Alice Gilpin, Lewis Gord-Sharl



COMPUTING SUPPORT
WASWANIPI
Kelly Wapachee
Absent: Thomas Moore



PROFESSIONAL COOKING
WASWANIPI
Joel Blacksmith, Jerry Shanush, Pauline Neeposh, Maggie Etapp, Elijah Wapachee, Sarah Blacksmtih



NORTHERN BUILDING MAINTENANCE
WASWANIPI
Marcel Rupert, Nelson Wapachee, James George-Jolly, **Teacher:** Denis Tremblay, Pelle Loon, John Ottereyes, John Napash
Absent: Jeremy Dixon

projects created by the mining boom. Students will learn about constructing, erecting, maintaining and repairing wood structures, wood substitutes and other materials. Running at 1350 hours, the course covers project management, how to read and produce drawings, specifications and sketches, learning how to build, install, insulate, set and finish every section of a building, building insulation, soundproofing and ventilation, working in a team, assessing client costs and necessary safety precautions. Graduates will also learn how to work with: concrete forms, wood frames and steel bulkheads, projects that involve making joints, assembly work, erecting and repairing wood and metal parts, applying interior and exterior finishes and landscaping projects.

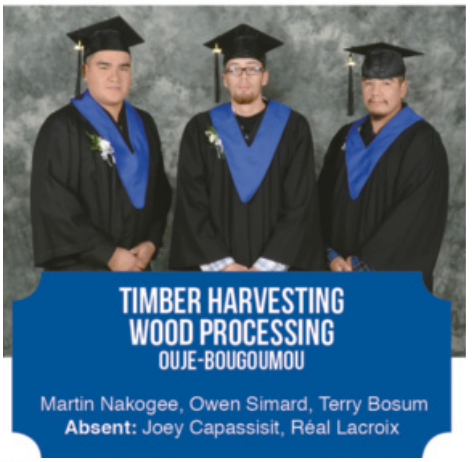
Secretarial Studies: This 1485-hour course is for the person who enjoys helping others in a professional working environment. It will teach you to be efficient and effective in a workplace environment, to produce, update and proofread business texts, to use word processing, database and spreadsheet software, use telecommunication tools, offer basic understanding of labour laws and how they apply as well as bilingual text writing.

Mining Mobile Mechanics: This course is geared towards training students to be mobile mechanics for the mining industry who are capable of upkeep, diagnostics and repairs for the heavy equipment at a mine site. For more information, such as prerequisites, course hours and a starting date, you should contact the Cree School Board.

Semi Automatic Welding: This course is about how to become a professional welder. More information is available from the Cree School Board.

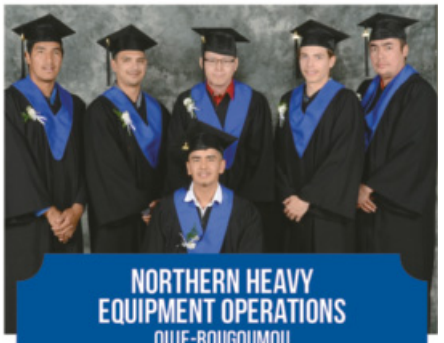
Trucking Class 3: In this Class 3 truck driving course, students will learn how to drive a heavy straight-body truck, like a twin-axle truck with a net weight of 4,500 kg or over, any truck with more axles, and a road vehicle covered by a license of that class with a semi-trailer. Find out more from the Cree School Board.

So, whether you are ready to begin a new career or just want to look into what kind of credentials you would need to get into the vocational program of your choice, that journey begins with one big step. Are you ready to take yours?



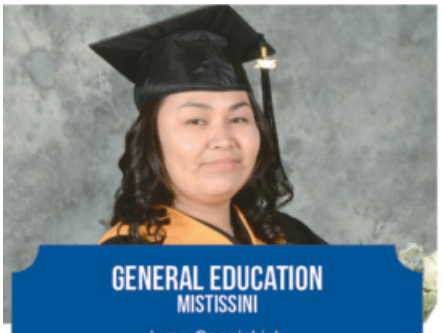
TIMBER HARVESTING WOOD PROCESSING
OUJE-BOUGOUMOU

Martin Nakogee, Owen Simard, Terry Bosum
Absent: Joey Capassisit, Réal Lacroix



NORTHERN HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS
OUJE-BOUGOUMOU

Tony Cooper, Steve Longchap, Jody Bosum, Jordon Wapachee, Sam Bosum,
Seated: Brandon Wapachee
Absent: Mathew Wapachee Jr, Dorianne Bosum, Lydia Iserhoff

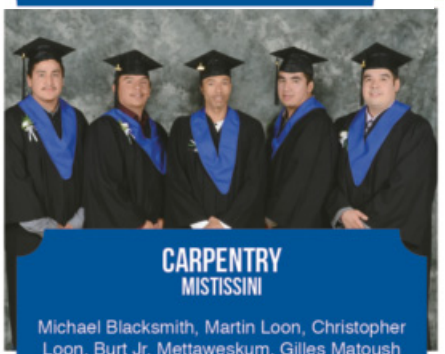


GENERAL EDUCATION
MISTISSINI

Lynn Coonishish
Absent: Mason Voyageur

ACCOUNTING
MISTISSINI

Doreen Loon, Melanie Blacksmith, Victoria Bobbish, Priscilla Coon, Trisha Gunner, Cheryl Moar **Absent:** Edna S. Coon Come



CARPENTRY
MISTISSINI

Michael Blacksmith, Martin Loon, Christopher Loon, Burt Jr. Mettaweskum, Gilles Matoush

Cheezo cracks Foreurs lineup

Cree sniper overcomes life obstacles on way to QMJHL

by Josh Grant

Another athlete from Eeyou Istchee is making waves in the competitive hockey world. This time it's 16-year-old Adam Cheezo, who was born in Mistissini and grew up in Eastmain. Cheezo was drafted by the Val-d'Or Foreurs of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League June 6 and recently cracked the team's roster for the 2015-16 QMJHL season.

Cheezo has made impressive progress in the last few years, reaching the Major Juniors all the way from Midget AA in two seasons. In 2012, he joined the Cree Nation Bears and notched a remarkable 25 goals and 19 assists over 28 games.

Last year with the Midget AAA Amos Forestiers, the 170-pound, 6'1" forward tallied 14 goals and 18 assists to merit his third-round selection by the Foreurs in the QMJHL draft. Cheezo made it through an intense pre-season training camp, a series of roster cuts and exhibition games to earn a spot competing against some of the best teenage hockey players in Quebec.

"The training camp was hard," Cheezo told *the Nation*. "Lots of other good players were fighting for a spot. I had to focus on what was important, working hard on and off the ice. It was tough but I just wanted it that bad."

Adam and his mother Charlotte Cheezo both mentioned that he has been through a lot in life, and he cited his mom, father Terry Mark-Stewart and stepdad Raymond Shanoush as big influences and sources of support. While both Adam and Charlotte declined to share any of the personal details, it's clear that the younger Cheezo is mature, independent and focused on pursuing his dream of playing hockey at an elite level.

"My stepdad pushed me a lot to train and be better every day," said Adam. "He's the one that kept me going even though I've been through tough times and faced a lot of obstacles. My family is very supportive, I love them and I want to make them proud."

When asked how he can contribute to the Foreurs this year, Adam said he'd love to be the go-to guy but he knows that competing in the QMJHL won't be easy.

"My goal is to be the best I can be on and off the ice," he said in typical hockey player fashion. "Just work hard and give it my best."

Charlotte says her son has been playing hockey since he was two years old and shared a few of her memories of his involvement in the sport, including the time she first strapped him into a pair of skates shortly after he learned how to walk.

"When he started walking I put him in a pair of skates and he started walking around with them. He wanted to wear them all day," she laughed. "I had to install carpet in the living room because he was scratching the floor!"

Charlotte added that Adam is a caring individual who has dealt with a lot of adversity but is still very motivated to succeed.

"He's got a big heart," she said. "He loves to do things for others and he can be sensitive at times but that's because he's been through a lot. I mean a lot."

Charlotte said that while it's been tough having Adam away from home from the age of 13 (since he started out in Midget AA), she's proud of what he's been able to accomplish.

"We've been going to his games since he started playing with the Cree Nation Bears in 2012," said Charlotte. "I try to catch almost every game. Whenever I can't make it to any of his games I encourage his dad to go and support him."

Then she added, "He amazes me. He's taken really big steps to get to where he is now. One year he was in Midget AA, one year he was in Midget AAA and now he's already in the Quebec Majors. I've always had faith in him, I've always believed in him."

The Val-d'Or Foreurs kick off their season September 11 when they visit the Victoriaville Tigers. The following Saturday they play the Voltigeurs of Drummondville leading up to their home opener on September 19 at the Air Creebec Centre in Val-d'Or.

Montreal's premier hard-music festival may be suffering from its double personality

story and photos by Lyle Stewart

It may have been difficult to compete with last year's thunderous one-two punch of Metallica and Slayer, but there were many metal fans voting with their absent feet and devil salutes at Heavy Montreal 2015.

Crowds at the August 7-9 hard-music festival were significantly thinner as a lower wattage of metal stars sparked the line-up at Parc Jean-Drapeau this summer. There was also low-grade but persistent grumbling that the metal part of a festival formerly and cleverly dubbed "Heavy Mtl" is now too diluted with punk rock.

Indeed, the cohabitation of the two musical styles, which may be indistinguishable to many folks, is uneasy at best. And, it has to be said, the outnumbered punkers put on a better show than their crunchy cousins at this edition.

Led by the Iggy Pop, punk's indestructible godfather, the spiky haired crew revelled in their mosh pits as the 68-year-old reeled off a string of familiar hits, starting with "I Wanna Be Your Dog", "The Passenger" and "Lust For Life". Iggy was Iggy, in other words, sublime despite the sag of his tanned torso.

How Heavy should Montreal be?

He led the crowd through an underground fantasy of debauchery and musical history – "1969" being the signature tune – and reminded the kids in the crowd that it's not simply youth that makes a revolution, but the rebel spirit and pissed-off poetry in one's soul.

Metal fans may have made allowance for the legendary Iggy, but I heard many epithets hurled toward Billy Talent, Canada's reigning puck-rockers. "They have no business being here," one person told me backstage among the tattooed glitterati in the VIP tent as we watched on a big screen.

Perhaps it was the band's success at winning airplay on mainstream radio, something few of the metal acts at this year's fest are managing these days. Maybe he didn't like the overtly political appeal, as they promised to buy everyone in the crowd a beer if they didn't vote for Stephen Harper.

Whatever. One thing is for sure: punkers are notorious smart-asses, and California's NOFX appeared more than happy to stir the pot with whip-quick two-minute songs.

After reeling off "Dinosaurs Will Die" and (perhaps with Quebecers in

mind) "Franco-Unamerican" in record time, frontman bassist Fat Mike decided to play devil's advocate against Heavy Montreal's raison d'être.

"See, metal bands," he drolled, "if their songs were that short, a minute and a half, then metal bands would be good. But no, they have to take a good song and stretch it out to eight minutes!"

One fan in a Korn T-shirt had the misfortune to be front and centre for NOFX's set. Fat Mike, clad in a pink dress and leather tights, called him out. "Dude, Korn's not even a band anymore," he trolled, before his bandmates informed him Korn had headlined the fest the previous night. "Didn't you get the memo?"

It was all good – if edgy – fun, highlighted by a pair of piñatas to help guitarist El Hefe celebrate his 50th birthday. I even caught one of the toy whistles that burst out to the crowd.

That was a contrast to the death and devil imagery from Abbath, the recently crowned kings of Norwegian death metal (with a side of KISS makeup and costumery). Nation editor Will Nicholls had fun drinking backstage with Abbath guitarist King ov Hell (less colloquially known as Tom Cato Visnes), who obliged all comers with a variety of sneering poses for the cameras.

One metal discovery for this punk fan – who loves both genres – was Gojira. French-from-France, this polished band sings in English and punches the belly with a signature double-bass-drum-driven assault. "L'Enfant Sauvage", "Flying Whales" and "The Heaviest Matter of the Universe" were memorable takeaways from their set of, well, yes, mostly eight-minute songs.

For the most part, however, the metal offerings were meagre in this reviewer's opinion. Runaways' cast-off Lita Ford had little to excite in a weak set besides "Cherry Bomb" from close to 40 years ago. Faith No More has its fans, but they played a set that would have sounded at home on a pop-music station. Slipknot has shock value, but not enough value to headline a festival that has consistently featured the best of heavy music since its inception in 2008.

I was more at home with Montreal's psychobilly band The

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Brains, who played a blistering lunch-hour set for about 500 devotees at the small Apocalypse stage. Rocket from the Crypt set me up, while others I spoke to were glowing from Friday's Lagwagon show. Sunday even featured the last surviving member of the Ramones, as Marky ran through a catalogue of familiar three-minute pogo-inciting numbers.

Some of the scuttlebutt blamed the lack of marquée metal on Rockfest at Montebello in June. Their line-up, which included Slayer, was remarkably similar to the Riot Fest offerings in Toronto, Chicago and Denver this summer. Apparently Montebello is considered too close to Montreal for many of the A-listers to make a double summer appearance.

Whatever the reason, the punkers won this round of Heavy Montreal. We look forward to next year to see if this great festival can regain its previous metal glory.

70,000 tons of fun

A highlight of this year's Heavy Montreal festival were the folks from 70,000 Tons of Metal, promoting their February cruise from Florida to Jamaica. Imagine over 3,000 metal fans, 30 bands and a four-day cruise through the Caribbean at the coldest time of year.

That's what the "Skipper," pictured here with Montreal impresario Dominic Castelli (who was the stage manager at last winter's event), wanted us to envision as he invited us to take a dip in a hot tub backstage with a bevy of his rock chicks. We were forced to oblige.

On the next voyage, the ship will depart Fort Lauderdale February 4, 2016, for Falmouth, Jamaica. Over the following four days, 30 metal bands will play indoor and outdoor stages on the boat. Check their website at 70000tons.com for the lineup.

Castelli said the experience was one of the craziest in his career, featuring very little sleep, frenzied fans and tons (70,000 of them!) of fun. Prices for the cruise start at $666, though tickets at that price are already sold out.

SLAYER

HEAVY MANIA 2

THE SECRET TO THE SCIENCE OF WRESTLING

story and photos by Will Nicholls

Last year Heavy Mania, Heavy Montreal's wrestling show, put on a spectacular event that rivaled some of the bands for people's attention. The latest over-the-top edition topped last year's serving of wrestling mayhem. By "over the top" I mean out of the ring and into the crowd. It had people scrambling to get out of the way as well as trying to get closer than they ever have been to the wrestlers.

Organizer and wrestler Shayne Hawke talked about the three days he had set up. Hawke said the shows get better every year but it isn't choreographed.

"The wrestlers, themselves, come up with what they want to do. I do the pairings (who fights who) and the general story," said Hawke, adding that the choreographed wrestling moves are a science.

Hawke has two degrees, one in cinema video communications and in creative writing and literature. He's been a trainer for wrestlers for 13 years and credits the old timers in wrestling for rounding out his education in the field.

"I took quite a bit of crowd psychology, criminal psychology and biology in terms of getting the blood rushing to different areas to create euphoria in people," he said. "I absorbed that knowledge like a sponge. This isn't work to me. It's a party. Both of my degrees were taken with wrestling in mind."

When he looks at an event he chooses whom to put against each other based on

science. People who are foils to each other are important but two of his crew aren't really into the wrestling scene but are into the heavy metal music scene.

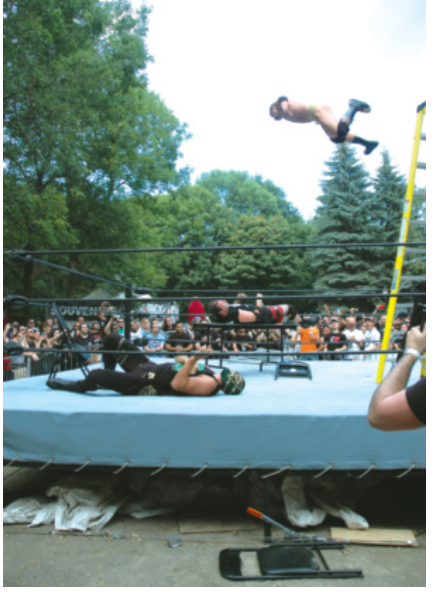
"They have a pulse on what those fans want. We are broadcasting to a main audience not a niche audience. We're looking for people and the wrestlers to have a good time. It has to be fun for the performers because when they are having fun that translates to the audience. It's fun, that child-like fun with a suspension of disbelief. A lot of us take the world way too seriously. Wrestling is taking you back to when you were five years old on Christmas morning. You get white knights versus black knights, the old story of good versus evil. It's reducing human elements to the lowest common denominator. It's basic stereotypes and histrionics rather than an individual. It's all about concepts and you're cheering or jeering those concepts."

at Sept 5th Hawke is the first to admit he doesn't fit the usual picture of a wrestler. Even though he is quite fit he's "small, but my intelligence plays a factor in the ring. It's not that I'm smarter but I do a lot of research and it's based on my art form. I'm passionate and I love my art."

Love of his art has led to the International Wrestling Syndicate getting a deal with a Mexican TV station. It involves the Triple Underground, which is the largest Lucha Libre body in the world, a Mexican style of wrestling in which everyone is masked. Hawke is trained in this style of wrestling and compares it to bringing comic books to life. "It's something that is bigger than life and I love it," said Hawke.

Larger than life characters abound in the show. A crowd favourite this and last year was Sexy Eddie, the self-proclaimed wrestler with five pounds of man-meat below his belt. Last year he said that made it a target for other wrestlers. This year was no different and Sexy Eddie said his favourite part of the show was taking his pants off and watching the women responding… "Cause that's what I do," he said.

An added bonus is how many guys get a little jealous. "That's the reason why this year we have to wear pants in the VIP section because a lot of guys were feeling a little insecure. They said get Sexy Eddie out of here or put pants on him. So we have to what we have to do. In the ring I seem to have more guy fans than girls. So I guess I have to work on marketing or something," his Sexiness remarked.



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In a tag team match both Sexy Eddy and his partner were targeted below the belt with what looked like a painful crotch grab. Both were down on their knees while being squeezed. I finally understood the Rolling Stones song Sympathy for the Devil. Just when you thought it was over they stood up and gave a pelvic thrust that sent the opponents tumbling.

Sexy Eddie attributes this to training by Shaolin Monks who showed him how to harness the power of the penis. "I brought this back to North America and since then I have been winning a lot of matches. It's a gift and I have to use it. I don't want to waste it. Sometimes it is a curse as women have been known to leave my house on crutches," he said. At press time the Nation has been unable to verify this.

What we have been able to verify is that Hawke and company will be at the Corona Theatre in Montreal Sepember 5. Check out the action and join in the fun.

August 27, 2015
My letter to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee

On August 16, 2015, I was removed as Youth Grand Chief in a non-confidence vote by 27 of the 42 members of the Council. Before the vote took place, I was asked to resign. I declined to do so. Not only do I believe that the allegations against me are untrue, I also wanted to respect the choice of the Youth who voted for me back in 2012. When the vote was over, I accepted the decision of the Council.

When the storm came, I composed myself and remembered that I was not alone. I did my best to take it in stride. While this past week has been one of the most difficult times of my life, I have never lost faith in my purpose in life, in my work, or in people. The prayers of my family and loved ones have surrounded me, and something greater than myself gave me strength. I couldn't have gotten through this without that love.

I was – and continue to be – convinced that something good will come out of this challenging situation. A door may have closed, but another one will open. This has always proven to be true. It may not be what we expect, and it may not come when we want it to, but there's always a light at the end of the tunnel.

After the vote, I came home to face reality. I didn't expect what I found. The exterior of my house is being renovated. There were concerns that the roots of the birch and poplar trees that my father planted in the early 90's were going to damage the foundation of the house, and so the construction people had to cut them down. I came home from the meeting to find my majestic trees on the ground.

It occurred to me that, like those trees, I had been uprooted. But if I hadn't bowed out gracefully, far worse damage would have been done. Being uprooted is painful, but it's also part of life. Life is full of challenges; our true character is revealed by how we choose to deal with them. I chose to walk away with dignity, honour and respect. Chemindoo talks about grace, forgiveness and love. Wherever I end up, I pray I live up to these qualities all the days of my life.

As Youth Grand Chief, I did my best to serve the Youth of Eeyou Istchee. I am proud of what we achieved and accomplished as a nation. I wish nothing but the best for the incoming Youth Grand Chief of the Cree Nation Youth Council, and I will continue to pray for our youth and for our Eeyouch/Eenouch.

Farewell, and God bless you.
Joshua Iserhoff

Of blueberries and bears

by Xavier Kataquapit

Everyone thought that the blueberry season was going to be terrible in northern Ontario and northern Quebec this past summer. A frost and cold weather in June seemed to have stifled the blueberry crop. In July, it was evident to everyone that it was not going to be a great summer for blueberries.

In my conversations with Elders in July, they advised me to be careful up at my isolated cottage in Quebec, as there would be few berries for the bears this summer. I don't often get much bear traffic around my place in the remote wilderness, but this July there was evidence that some were dropping by. Although I appreciate these large animals and in fact all forms of life on this planet, I am acutely aware that starving bears view me as a potential food source.

Some of my neighbours on the lake reported evidence of bears and the local trash bins nearby showed signs of tampering.

Bears don't normally present a problem to people. They are mainly vegetarian but they will eat anything to survive. Although they may look cute and cuddly from a distance, a small bear that may weigh 400 to 600 pounds can easily kill a human. Other than the firepower of a shotgun, there is not much defence from these giants of the north. Bears are incredibly powerful and their tough hide and fat skin combined with a thick head of bone offers them great protection. They are almost all muscle and capable of tearing just about anything apart and running very fast. They can also climb trees.

I admire bears and often I see them in the wild, but I am very cautious around these mighty creatures. In particular if a mother bear and her cubs are wandering around nearby, I make sure to keep my distance. The cubs are always cute and cuddly looking, but if a human gets anywhere near them, the mother will instinctively remove anyone and anything away from her cubs. There is nothing much you can do to fight them off and when they are hungry, they have been known to stalk people.

A blow to the nose has been said to deter a bear from advancing, but trying to club one over the head is useless as their boney skull is immense. A high-powered rifle shot in a frantic emergency might only wound a bear and that could make it really angry. My dad always claimed that in a case of emergency, a shotgun blast to the face was the only real way of actually maiming one and eliminating it as a threat. The shotgun blast blinds and disorients the bear, so that it is difficult for it to carry through with an attack.

The best defence for a bear is to respect their power and keep your distance. You should never leave garbage or food out on your property in the wilderness. If you are using a barbecue, you should burn off any fat or residue before you shut down. If a bear has been spotted nearby, make sure to take your time when you are heading out. Check for signs of an animal looking for food.

Don't think that lying down or playing dead is going to deter a bear either. Always create a lot of noise when you are in an isolated wilderness area to make sure that a bear knows you are around. The clanging of pots and pans seems to work quite well. If you do happen to round a corner and spot a bear, try raising your arms and making yourself bigger and back away slowly. Don't turn and run.

Thankfully, with a warm end of July and a hot early August, the blueberries ended up reviving quite well. In my area, this has meant fewer bear sightings as they are feeding off a second and third growth of berries. I hope that they all fatten up and have a wonderful hibernation. Perhaps next summer will be a better year for blueberries.

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